

Capital Strategy Group

Wednesday 15 October 2008, 5pm

Room 7, York House

Present: Cllr Eady (Chair), Cllr King, Cllr Marlow, Mrs England, Ms Brett, Ms Longhurst, Mr Percival, Beverly Butler, Claire Briggs

Apologies: Paul Bettles, John Russell

Minutes

Action

1. Introductions and apologies

Apologies – see above.

Formal introductions were made to welcome two new members of the group, Ms Jo Longhurst, Headteacher at Orleans Park School as the Secondary Headteacher representative and Cllr David Marlow.

2. Declarations of interest

None were received.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2008 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

Point 4 – Cllr Marlow raised the issue of different procurement methods. Cllr Eady noted that the Council were advised to follow the SECE (South East Centre of Excellence) by the Government.

BB added that a Gateway Review with SECE will be undertaken shortly to review the whole process and will take on board any lessons learnt. In addition to this an internal review will follow and will be reported to Cabinet.

Point 5 – Kitchens. The DCSF have just released information on a TCF (Targeted Capital Fund) bidding opportunity (phase 2. The first phase was for LA's who had no kitchens at all). Expressions of interest need to be submitted before Christmas, and the Building Development Team are meeting with other internal Officers to meet and discuss how we can submit a bid that meets the criteria and also discuss with Jan King who is the LA's independent meals advisor.

BB

Point 6 – School Development Plans. The Building Development Team have not circulated a copy of the example mentioned at the last meeting as it was subsequently felt that it contained over complicated data. The LA are now looking at producing something without employing a consultant. The process is currently being looked at to see how we can work with schools and Dioceses where applicable to produce these. The aim is to have a simple document to summarise what should be looked at in terms of capital investment and when. A pilot will be carried out with a couple of schools first.

BB

BB to report back on this at the next meeting.

C Brett raised the issue of asbestos and guidance for VA schools and community schools. This will be issued before Christmas with input from the Health and Safety Team.

BB/CB

Cllr Eady raised the issue of birth rates and set the scene with data over the last 7 years.

Primary school expansion feasibility studies are being carried out at St. Mary's and St. Peter's and Holy Trinity. The LA is also in discussion with other schools regarding expansions.

The LA submitted a 'safety valve' bid to the DCSF and were awarded £8.9m for primary. BB has also submitted further TCF applications for a number of other schools in the hope of securing additional funding.

BB distributed information detailing the primary strategy projects for the next 4 years and the funding that is available. For the first three years the funding will be for primary expansions. A consultation document will be distributed in November to outline the LA's proposals. C Brett asked if this could be as transparent as possible.

BB

BB reiterated to the group that the LA has a statutory duty to provide places for pupils.

5. Education Capital Programme 2009/2010

A draft programme of works for 2009/10 was circulated to the group.

Two boilers are likely to be included in the programme.

For secondary schools, Teddington School is being rebuilt under the BSF One School Pathfinder programme and Whitton, Shene and HCC have been earmarked as possible academies therefore the DCSF wouldn't advise us to spend money on them until this process is completed.

Matched funding – BB is not recommending that this goes ahead this year. The group agreed BB could keep the £300,000 unallocated figure to do whatever was appropriate with it and explain in the programme why matched funding will not be offered to schools next year.

Cllr King raised the issue of Caretaker's accommodation. BB stated that schools received revenue funding for repairs and maintenance to schools that have these properties.

6. Updates

Teddington School – BSF One School Pathfinder

We are currently in week four of a 123 week programme. As much of the risk that can be transferred onto the main contractor has been. The new school is expected to be ready for occupation September 2010.

7. Any other business

No other business was raised.

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 21 January 2009, 5pm. Room 7, York House.